

What is claimed is:

1. A content server receiving an access by different types of terminal devices comprising:

content storage means, storing content;

5 terminal identifying means, identifying whether or not the terminal device accessing thereto is controllable for transition from content to other content in accordance with description in the content received by the accessing terminal device;

10 management information generating means, generating management information in accordance with content read out from the content storage means when the terminal identifying means judges that the accessing terminal device is not controllable for the transition; and

15 transition control means, controlling transition of content to be transmitted to the terminal device according to the management information in response to a request from the terminal device.

2. A program for realizing a content server receiving an access by different types of terminal devices with a computer, the content server comprising:

20 content storage means, storing content;

terminal identifying means, identifying whether or not the terminal device accessing thereto is controllable for transition from content to other content in accordance with description in the content received by the accessing terminal device;

25 management information generating means, generating management information in accordance with content read out from the content storage means when the terminal identifying means judges that the accessing terminal device is not controllable for the transition; and

30 transition control means, controlling transition of content to be transmitted to the terminal device according to the management information in response to a request from the terminal device.

3. A storage medium to store the program defined in claim 2.

35 4. The content server of claim 1 wherein new management information is generated and previous information is discarded whenever the terminal device requires new content.

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5 5. The content server of claim 1 wherein the management information generating means generates non-response permissible information, for terminating communication between the server and the terminal device when no reply is received from the terminal device, as a part of the management information.

10 6. The content server of claim 1 wherein the management information generating means generates a session ID as a part of the management information whenever the terminal device accesses thereto.

15 7. The content server of claim 1 wherein the terminal identifying means identifies whether or not the terminal device accessing thereto is controllable for transition by identifying type of the terminal device.

20 8. The content server of claim 7 wherein the terminal identifying means performs the identification of controllability in accordance with a header of Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) sent from the terminal device.

25 9. The content server of claim 7 wherein the terminal identifying means performs the identification of controllability in accordance with an IP address sent from the terminal device.

30 10. The content server of claim 1 wherein the terminal identifying means identifies a size of content which can be stored temporarily at the terminal device for its display as well, and wherein the management information generating means divides the content in accordance with its size.

35 11. A content server receiving an access by different types of terminal devices comprising:

a content storage part for storing content; and

a control part for controlling read out of content from the content storage part and transmission of the content;

wherein the control part identifies whether or not the terminal device accessing thereto is controllable for transition from content to

for performing transition from content to other content as management information in accordance with description in content received thereby which is written in a self-descriptive language,

and wherein the content server controls transition of content to be transmitted to a terminal device according to the generated management information in response to a request from the terminal device.

16. A storage medium to store the program defined in claim 15.

17. The content server of claim 14 wherein the content server divides the content in accordance with a size of content which can be stored temporarily at the terminal device for its display.

18. A method of distributing content to different types of terminal devices, the method comprising the steps of:

storing the content;

identifying whether or not the terminal device requesting content is controllable for transition from content to other content in accordance with description in the content received by the terminal device;

transmitting the requested content with information for controlling the transition contained therein when the requested content is distributed to the terminal controllable for the transition; and

managing transition from content to other content at an end of distributing the content when the requested content is distributed to the terminal uncontrollable for the transition.